



January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

The greatest advantage to this settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice is that it ends the court action. Aside from that, the settlement is rather lopsided.

While I support the settlement, I also feel that some of the terms set a dangerous precedent. Not only will this settlement force Microsoft to release some of its protocols to its competitors, but the settlement also forces Microsoft to allow software other than its own to essentially become part of its operating system.

All of this can have two undesirable side effects: The first is that the reliability and high quality standards that we have all grown accustomed to when operating a computer with the Windows platform may now be rendered unstable because of the addition of someone else's software. Secondly, there will now be a possibility for cloned versions of Windows to flood the market. The idea of Rolex watches springs to mind. Microsoft will no doubt be blamed for this too.

Again, I reiterate my support for the settlement in principle, but the specifics of some of these terms can prove problematic down the road.

Sincerely,

Chad Ruff
President
Sage Software, Inc.
3423 Piedmont Road
Suite 550
Atlanta, GA 30305